

Historic, Archive Document

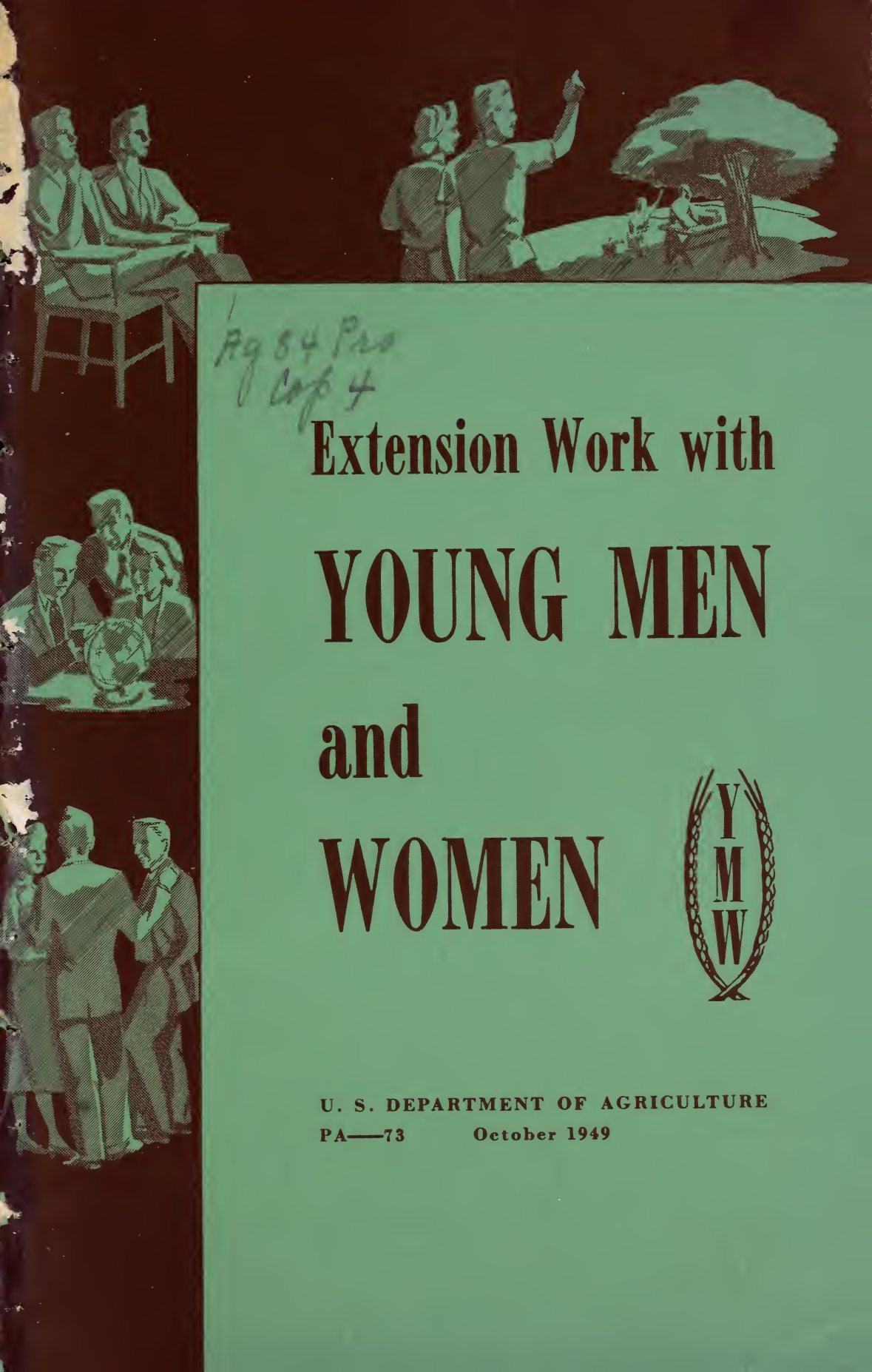
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Ag 84 Pro
Cap 4

Extension Work with YOUNG MEN and WOMEN



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PA—73 October 1949



Here's what to look for:

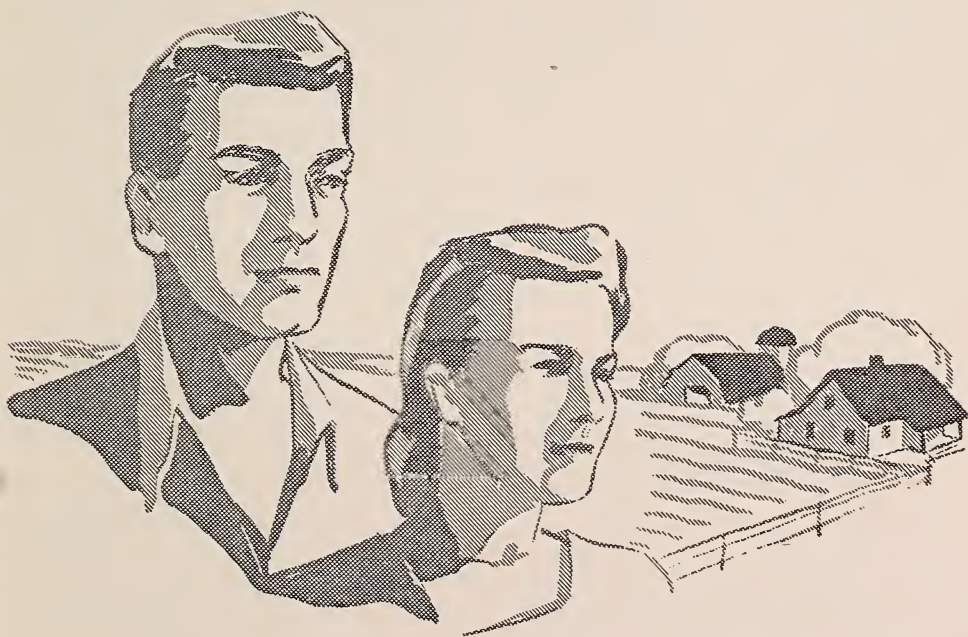
	Page
Why YMW work?.....	2
Young people have their problems.....	2
They make three basic decisions.....	3
How to organize your program.....	5
Planning to meet needs.....	5
The educational program.....	5
Recreational and social activities.....	7
Community-service programs.....	7
The YMW program in action.....	9
Dotty and Dick take part.....	9
Building the program.....	13
The new name.....	13
The age group.....	13
Status within the cooperative Extension Service.....	13
Methods.....	14
How to organize Extension-sponsored YMW Clubs.....	14
Try to meet the special needs of young married couples....	15
How to work with young men and women in other ways....	16
Parents can help to promote the program.....	18
The cooperation of clergymen is important.....	19
Work out a cooperative arrangement with school officials....	20
Why farm-organization leaders should be interested.....	21
Why civic and commercial groups should support YMW programs.....	22
How the YMW plan was developed.....	24
Seven guideposts for extension workers.....	(p. 3 of cover)
What the program aims to do.....	(p. 4 of cover)

This publication is planned for county extension agents. Each section is designed to serve as a ready-reference source for ideas to use in building programs that meet the primary needs and interests of young men and women.

Extension Work With Young Men and Women

By E. W. AITON, *field agent, Division of
Field Coordination, Extension Service*

A great many young men and women who live in rural areas are making their most difficult and important decisions now. They want and need help with their own personal problems and interests, but too many fail to find it. The cooperative Extension Service has offered some assistance for a long time. The expanded program described here is suggested in an attempt to meet more fully the needs of these young people.



Why YMW Work?

Young People Have Their Problems

Over 3,000 young men and women 18 to 30 years of age live in the rural areas of the average agricultural county. During this period of their lives they need more help than at any other time. But they actually receive less. Why?

Most 18-year-olds from rural areas are no longer in school. Many are leaving their immediate family circle. Generally, the programs of adult organizations are not attractive and interesting enough to meet the needs and challenge of this age group. You will observe, too, that most young men and women are neither sure in their minds nor clear in their statements as to what they want and how they intend to get it.

Only about one-eighth of our rural people 18 to 30 participate in any group activity outside their church. True, a small, well-adjusted minority of them are very active. These few are much in demand and often in the public eye. They cruise far and wide in search of new experiences, new friends, and broader knowledge. It is this small, active minority that some people refer to when they say their community or organization is looking after the needs of young men and women.

But what of the vast majority? What of the boy or girl who is self-conscious in a crowd, who has never learned to play, or who cannot



make small talk with new acquaintances? What happens to the young person who has missed the opportunity to acquire the poise and personality and lacks the perseverance to create desirable friendships?

It should be the normal desire of every young person to look forward to participation in adult activities. But all too frequently they feel ill at ease in adult organizations. Perhaps the reasons lie in the many kinds of inner conflicts that they so frequently face; for example:

A desire for independence v. domination from their parents.

An urge for sociability v. inhibitions and a feeling of awkwardness.

A desire for accomplishment v. fear of failure.

A mature mentality v. lack of experience.

A desire for education v. need for an income-producing job.

Dreams of marriage v. the consciousness of physical or personality handicap.

Reports show that about one-third of the county extension agents are now giving special attention to the problems of young men and women. You, as county agents,

helped a total of 146,970 young people in 1948. The assistance you give and the ways you give it vary widely. Three kinds of work stand out:

The help you give to Extension-sponsored groups (46 per cent of the total help given).

Your assistance to groups organized by other agencies (29 percent).

Your service to individuals (25 percent).

They Make Three Basic Decisions

Young adults make three basic decisions. Each involves problems of choice that nearly everyone faces at some time.

1. They choose a vocation.

Shall I be a farmer or get a job in town?

Shall I start out alone or farm with dad?

Shall I buy, rent, or hire out for wages to gain experience?

What credit and financing plan is best?

As a young woman, how can I earn money?

Shall I try a business or professional career or be a homemaker?

Shall we plan and furnish a home?

2. They choose a mate.

How important are attractiveness, personality, and efficiency?

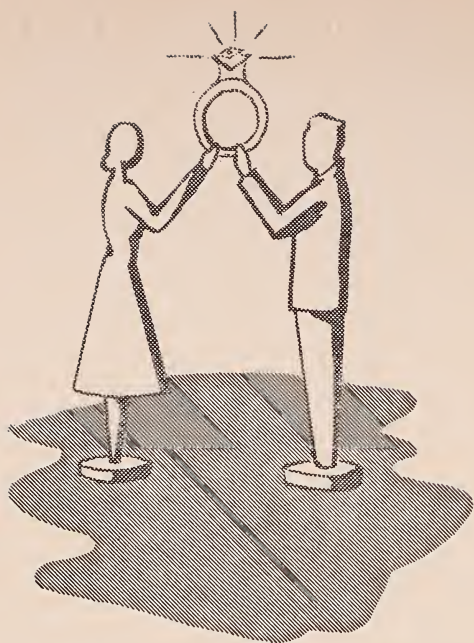
What are good dress, grooming, and social behavior?

Shall I keep "steady company"?

How can young married couples make adjustments and reach common goals?

What are the child-care problems of young parents?



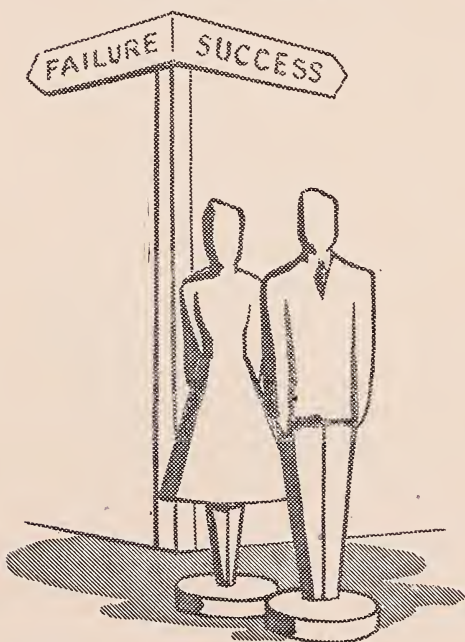


3. They choose their personal philosophy.

What is the best attitude toward religion?

Shall I work more for wealth or for gracious living?

Is our economy, based on the profit system, better than the planned state?



What politics and citizenship standards shall I follow?

How is education related to efficient operation?

Shall I continue my formal schooling?

Though not all young people recognize these personal problems or express them in words, you as an extension agent can help them in many ways to find the answers.

Here's what young people are saying to county agents:

- In our community there are about 100 rural young people 18 to 30 years of age. Most of us are out of school.
- Some of us are at home helping our parents.
- Half of us want to start farming. The rest want to find suitable jobs elsewhere.
- We all want to make new friendships.
- We do not have enough part in the present adult organizations of this community. But we want to be an important part of our community life.
- We are eager to get new ideas. We will try them out if they look good to us.
- We would like to meet together under wholesome conditions to study, play, and work.
- We will help all we can with our own program planning and organization problems, but don't expect us to have much "know how."
- Will you help us?

How To Organize Your Program

An alert county extension agent first finds out who the young people of his county are. Next he learns about their interests and needs and then helps the young people to do something about them.



If you desire effective programs, base them on real needs and build them around the active interests of the young people in your county. Your long-time plans for these programs should provide a balance among education, recreation, and community-service features.

Make the keynote of all programs "helping young people to help themselves." Give those who take part a chance for personal growth. Delegate responsibility. Even the newest member of a group can greet

other members or guests, or do certain chores in connection with the meeting.

Present educational subject matter in new and interesting ways. If possible, encourage the group itself to participate. Include discussions, demonstrations, quiz programs, visual aids, tours, banquets, festivals, and pageants on the educational bill of fare.

In building your program, consider the following ideas and topics as suggestions only.

Planning To Meet Needs

The Educational Program

Several well-tried methods are used in the educational program.

Assist young men and women with their vocational problems:

1. Obtain information and counsel about all types of jobs.
2. Give help (such as aptitude tests) in choosing a vocation.

3. Help to survey and analyze opportunities in the home community.
4. Show young people how to apply for a job.
5. Teach them how to hold a job.
6. Organize tours to industrial plants.
7. Provide specific agricultural and homemaking training in how to get started; farm and home management; crop and livestock production; marketing and purchasing; use and upkeep of farm buildings and equipment; home furnishings; principles of nutrition; clothing needs; cultural and social values.

Help them learn to conserve human and natural resources:

1. Organize health and safety programs to include health examinations and education about disease; community

health and safety campaigns; plans for hospital and medical care; fire and accident-prevention demonstrations.

2. Study phases of human relationships, such as personal social improvement, grooming and etiquette; the Golden Rule applied to good relationships; problems of courtesy and etiquette (give demonstrations and hold discussions); "dating" and choosing a mate; conditions for a successful marriage; understanding of parent-child relationships; important economic and social values and standards; developing a philosophy of life, culture, politics, and religion; problems of world peace and international understanding.

Help young people to study good citizenship by—

1. Observing the functions of local, county, State, national, and world governmental units through tours, trips, and discussions.
2. Learning how laws are made. Why are some hard to enforce?
3. Discussing the individual citizen's responsibilities.
4. Talking over national policies and problems of world peace, and our Nation's part in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cul-



tural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

5. Learning about the laws and customs concerning leases, wills, deeds, contracts, and taxes.
6. Knowing about all rural organizations, agencies, and programs that are active locally.
7. Practicing democracy with good meetings, active leadership, and effective programs.
8. Engaging in exchange visits on a State, national, and international scale.

Recreational and Social Activities

When you look, you will find individuals with talents, hobbies, and skills in every older-youth group. Discover and develop these things. Inspire youth to acquire new skills. Help them to teach each other. Recreation is an ideal way of doing this.

See that leadership is developed among group members. Arrange a variety of recreational and social activities.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Music: Music appreciation; choral and other group singing; instrumental-group playing.
2. Dramatics: Plays and skits; role playing in socio-drama; charades and stunts; ceremonies, pageants, and festivals.
3. Social activities: Parties, "mixers," and carnivals;

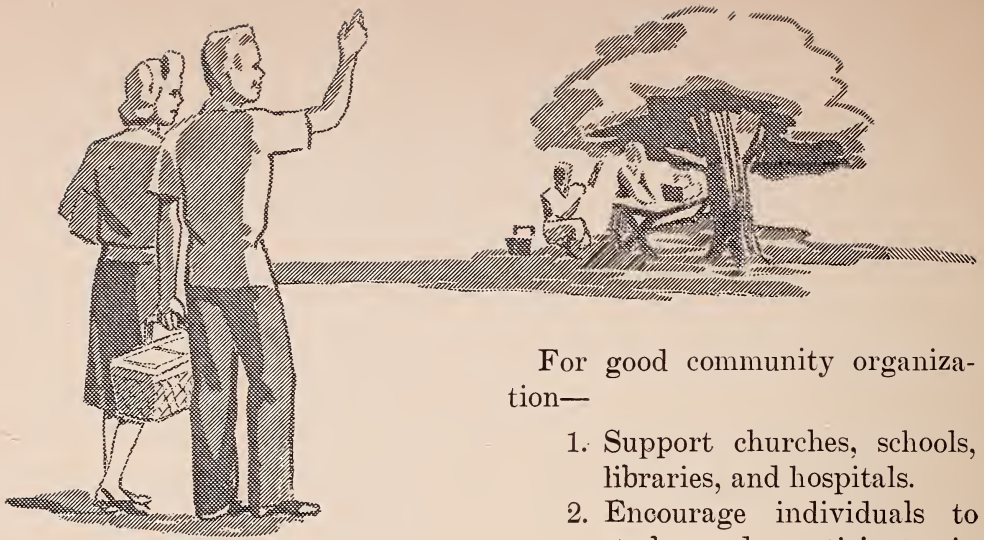
family fun; active and quiet games for meetings; folk games, dances, and festivals.

4. Camping and picnics: Week-long training camps; overnight and 1-day outings; picnics and "cook outs."
5. Arts and crafts: Hobby shows; craft work; personal collections.
6. Tours and trips to: Farms and homes; industries and cooperatives; points of scenic or historic interest; parks and recreation areas.
7. Sports: Field days; tournaments; ball games and leagues; winter sports; water sports.

Community-Service Programs

When you serve, you help others as well as yourself. Give young people a chance to grow personally by improving their home community. This is one of the best methods known to train and develop good citizens. Begin with familiar jobs close to home. You will give many youth inspiration toward high ideals and sound values if you





encourage them to beautify the church grounds, improve the school-yard, or erect a historic marker. Your community becomes a personal thing when you have a part in its development. Here are some projects that worked:

For more attractive community life—

1. "Brighten the corner where you are" by clean-up, paint-up, or plant-up campaigns.
2. Eliminate fly or mosquito hazards with a spray campaign.
3. Organize a rat- and rubbish-elimination project.
4. Plant "a mile of green" for roadside beautification.
5. Develop a recreation area or a "pasture league."
6. Start a drama, music, art, or folk festival.
7. Study community-health, accident-, and fire-control facilities. Take needed steps for improvement.

For good community organization—

1. Support churches, schools, libraries, and hospitals.
2. Encourage individuals to study and participate in adult community organizations.
3. Organize and support 4-H Club work.
4. Study and follow the principles of cooperation and democratic action.

For a more abundant economic life—

1. Conduct a farm-to-market survey or tour.
2. Organize grading and judging demonstrations and contests.
3. Study consumer habits, and organize discussion programs built on marketing problems.
4. Study cooperatives, and help in their operations or activities.
5. Survey the problems of soil, water, and wildlife conservation. Take the needed steps to solve these problems.
6. Plant variety trial test plots. Hold public demonstrations.
7. Stimulate better rural-urban relations.

The YMW Program in Action

Dotty and Dick Take Part



This is Dotty. She lives on a farm and likes it. She likes people and sociability, too. When the county home demonstration agent sent her a letter announcing a new extension program for young men and women, the idea appealed to Dotty.

And this is Dick. He is 24, a veteran, practical-minded, and anxious to get securely established in some phase of agriculture. Dick is especially interested in efficient farming methods and labor-saving devices.





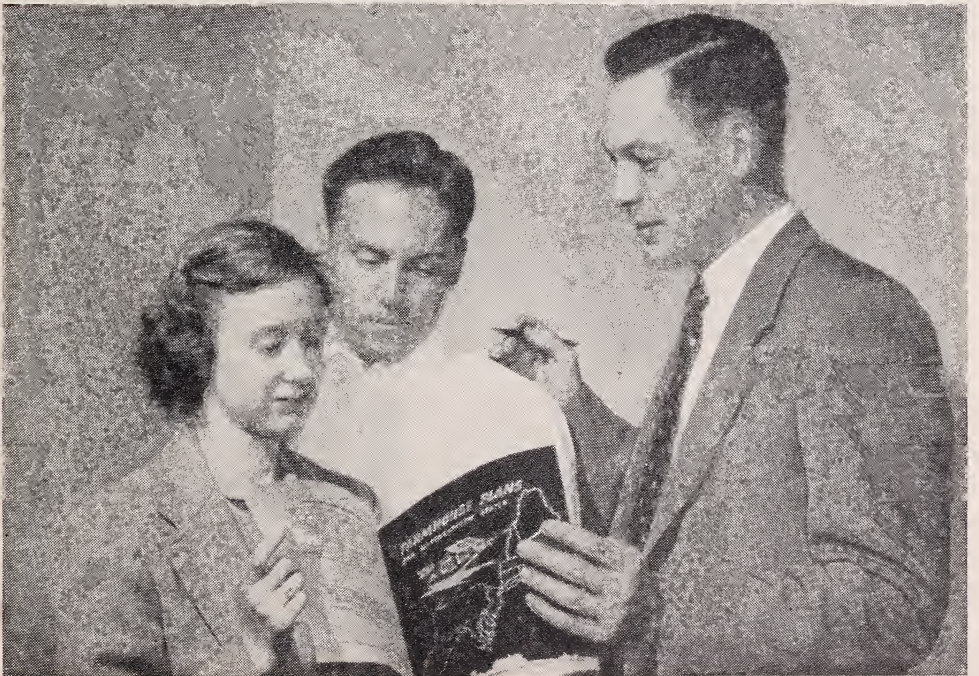
When the county extension agent stopped at Dick's home farm to tell him about the new Extension program for young men and women, there was a quick response. The agent is telling Dick about the YMW meeting to be held in his community.



Dotty calls on the county home demonstration agent to discuss a problem of color and design in making clothes. Dotty heard about the self-help programs offered by the Extension Service through YMW activities.



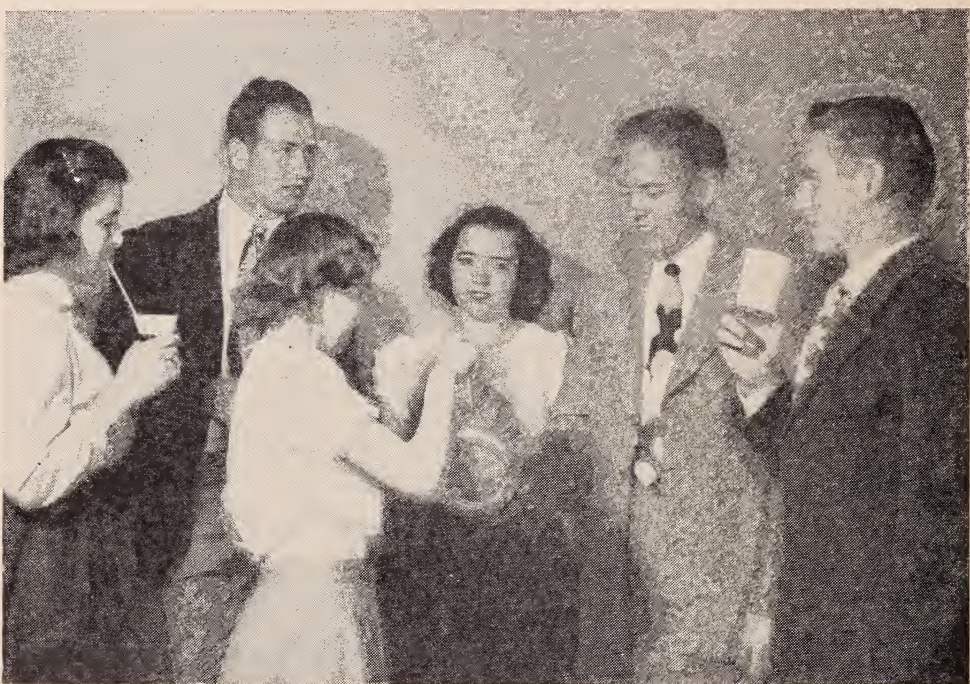
At the first meeting to discuss the YMW program, 12 young people were present. They decided to continue meeting together, so this temporary committee was named to develop future plans. Dotty and Dick showed their willingness to help.



The educational features of YMW programs are planned to meet real interests and needs. Dotty, Dick, and the county agent look over one of the sources of information used in the meeting.



This is part of the recreation that followed the business and educational periods of the meeting. Dotty, Dick, and the other group members swing through a folk dance.



At the close of the meeting, the appeal of "pop" or coffee and cookies helps to cement new friendships. Dotty and Dick find that mingling with other young people helps them to develop poise and personality.

Building the Program

The YMW program is part of the official program of the cooperative Extension Service. By adapting it to your local conditions, you can help young men and women to be healthy, useful citizens and enjoy an abundant rural life.

The New Name

"Extension Work With Young Men and Women" is the term for this program. The term was established nationally at the Jackson's Mill Conference in February 1949.¹ It will be used in national literature and other informational mediums, in reports to Congress, and in other ways. The same conference recommended that Extension-sponsored organizations be known as young men and women's clubs. For short use, the term "YMW Club" is proposed. In some States, local groups may continue to use specially adapted local names for their own clubs.

The Age Group

YMW or Extension work with young men and women applies primarily to work with rural people approximately 18 to 30 years of age.

Status Within the Cooperative Extension Service

You are familiar with the three other major divisions of extension work—the 4-H Club, home demonstration, and agricultural programs. The YMW program occupies a

parallel position with these three, but in addition should be a part of each of them. In this respect, you will not consider it as a fourth branch of Extension. All extension specialists, supervisors, and administrators, as well as county agents, should work on it.

However, because of the distinctly different kind of program to be developed, you will need to use new and different methods, specialist help, and local leadership. A separate system for evaluating and reporting results is desirable.

Young people aspire to be accepted as adults. Yet you find them most comfortable with others their own age. Many of them dropped out of youth programs because these were not challenging or stimulating enough. Or someone has labeled them "kid stuff." Since young people have different problems, interests, goals, and reactions from those of either juveniles or older adults, a specialized educational program is needed to help them.

YMW programs should be developed as a particular phase of extension work, to bring new opportunities to young men and women. Some specialized staff members are needed. Certain responsibilities for promoting, supervising, and servicing the program should be designated at county, State, and national levels. But the work of helping young men and women with their problems must be the concern of all.

All county, State, and national YMW programs should be planned

¹ See p. 24.

as an integral part of the over-all cooperative Extension program.

Methods

Here are seven different methods for program building:

1. Adjust 4-H, agricultural, and home demonstration programs to include appeals for the 18 to 30 age group.
2. Offer help to other agencies and organizations working with young people.
3. Organize extension YMW groups and activities when they are needed.
4. Work with individuals in informal groups with common interests.
5. Give indirect help through press, radio, letters, publications, and other information means.
6. Help individuals through direct contacts.
7. Encourage adult organizations, cooperatives, and 4-H

Club groups to include young people in both membership and leadership capacities.

How To Organize Extension-Sponsored YMW Clubs

Your county staff should help a representative committee to canvass or survey the local problems and situations to see if there is need for new organizations.

A representative group of young adults from the community should meet to study this survey and determine their interests, needs, and organization requirements. You will find many advantages in making this study on a community rather than a county-wide basis. Although county-wide groups are usually successful, it is difficult to arrange a more intensive coverage later for those who will not travel to county meetings.

When you find need for a group, encourage the representative committee to elect temporary officers.



Programs are best if planned by the members themselves. Here, a county extension agent and a group of young men and women confer earnestly about plans for the coming year. They represent a senior 4-H Club organization.

They should then draw up a list of prospective members, including everyone from 18 to 30 years of age in a given area. This becomes a "contact" list for the county office and the group.

Arrange a general meeting. Often, full discussion of purposes, opportunities, and responsibilities of the young people as well as of the agents organizing a YMW Club may be in order. As an agent, you should give help and counsel.

Encourage and assist officers and members to take the major role in planning and conducting their own programs. Be certain that they provide for—

Constant inflow of new members.

Special and continuous training of officers and leaders.

Effective operation of committees.

Good public relations.

Well-planned, interesting, and balanced programs.

Pleasant and acceptable recreation and other social activities.

Try To Meet the Special Needs of Young Married Couples

Within the age group of 18 to 30 years, you will observe important differences between married and unmarried young people. With marriage, young adults acquire new goals and interests. Usually, they drop out of their older-youth groups. Seldom are they absorbed in the regular home demonstration, agricultural, or farm-organization programs of their community.

In one county, a study² of participation in home demonstration group activities in 1948 showed that—

Only 15 percent of the participants were under 30 years of age.

² NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXTENSION. STUDY OF HOME BUREAU MEMBERSHIP; STATE SUMMARY—NOVEMBER 1948. 6 pp. Agr. Col. (Cornell) Ext., Ithaca. [Processed.]



Young women in a program-planning group discuss next year's plans with their home demonstration agent. The agent is explaining how models are used in teaching child development, the subject of their choice.

About 42 percent were 30 to 44 years of age.

About 37 percent were 45 to 64 years of age.

And 6 percent were 65 years of age or older.

Try some of the following ideas, all of which are being used successfully by other agents.

First find out who these young married couples are. How many are there? Where do they live? What is their family status? What are their needs and interests?

Then broaden and increase the participation of young married couples in present groups and programs by special invitation and attractions for them.

Establish new groups for young mothers and young farmers. Be careful to select meeting times convenient for them. A nursery or little tots' day school may be an important part of the arrangements. Some meetings for young mothers could be held at night when the fathers can watch the children.

Encourage established groups to elect young officers and leaders. Many granges report that this helps to vitalize programs and attract younger couples to the meetings.

Include information on family life, child development, health and welfare, credit and finance, beginning to farm, and on other problems that are typically those of young adults.

Establish field trials and public demonstration practices with young men and women taking part. Young people have an open mind and do not resist new methods.

They also have a longer life ahead in which to use the information. They may be your next community leaders.

Establish a desire for continuous enlightenment among rural people. Your 4-H Clubs strike the spark of inquiry and interest. A good YMW program adds substance of lasting value at a time when the individual needs it most. Education is a continuous journey, not a destination reached on graduation from a formal institution.

How To Work With Young Men and Women in Other Ways

Help other groups with programs in agriculture, home economics, and related fields.

Make up a county mailing list of young men and women.

Organize special subject-matter meetings and field-test demonstrations.

Arrange tours, camps, short courses.

Include young people in farm and home visits.

Hold open house to acquaint young people with the extension staff and its services.

Encourage office visits.

Send young people news letters and other special literature.

Prepare special press, radio, television, and exhibition programs.

Include young adults on county extension planning committees, and in cooperative councils and adult meetings.

Recognize young men and women and feature their work whenever possible.



Radio and other mass media are important extension tools. These young people were heard around the world on The Voice of America. Local stories about local people add public support for your county extension program.



In connection with their local discussions about world problems, 48 young people spent several months in 11 countries of Europe in 1948 and 1949. They represented one phase of the International Farm Youth Exchange project of the cooperative Extension Service. It was a thrilling experience.



Parents Can Help To Promote the Program

The support that we receive from interested persons will decide the success of this program. Get in touch with parents. It may not be desirable for them to attend YMW meetings, but they should know what the program is about. A word of encouragement from a parent often makes the difference between enthusiasm and indifference on the part of a young person.

Here are seven points that may be helpful when you write to or talk with parents about YMW work:

1. The boy or girl of 18 needs most to become socially acceptable and economically independent.
2. Young people should be encouraged to make new friendships of a wholesome nature.
3. They should be helped to get started toward their own life goals with a little business partnership.

4. The family that plays together stays together. Encourage parents to make their children's friends feel welcome in their home.
5. It is the responsibility of parents to see that their county extension committee is aware of the need for helping young people.
6. If young men and women feel that there are no good community activities that they like, their parents should help them to organize a YMW Club, but should not dominate it.
7. Young people should be encouraged to have new and broadening experiences. Parents should help them to try new ideas. When young men and women get married, parents should encourage them to establish a home of their own.



The Cooperation of Clergymen Is Important

An early contact with the religious leaders of the young people you hope to work with is important. Churchmen have a great and deep influence on the lives of rural people. We should not overlook the importance of keeping them informed about extension programs. This is especially true with new work such as YMW.

The spiritual leaders' hopes and ambitions for the welfare of their people are closely related to the purposes of YMW activities. Much educational work is needed in most rural areas. For this reason local clergymen may see in the program another opportunity to improve rural welfare and culture.

YMW work is not a competing program. If the church is fulfilling all the interests and needs of young adults in the area, this program has no place there. But if the

clergyman approached should feel that his program meets part of the needs but not all of them, then, perhaps, he can be shown that the Extension Service can help. Ask for his support if new YMW Clubs or other activities are needed.

Church workers have helped young-adult groups in many ways, by—

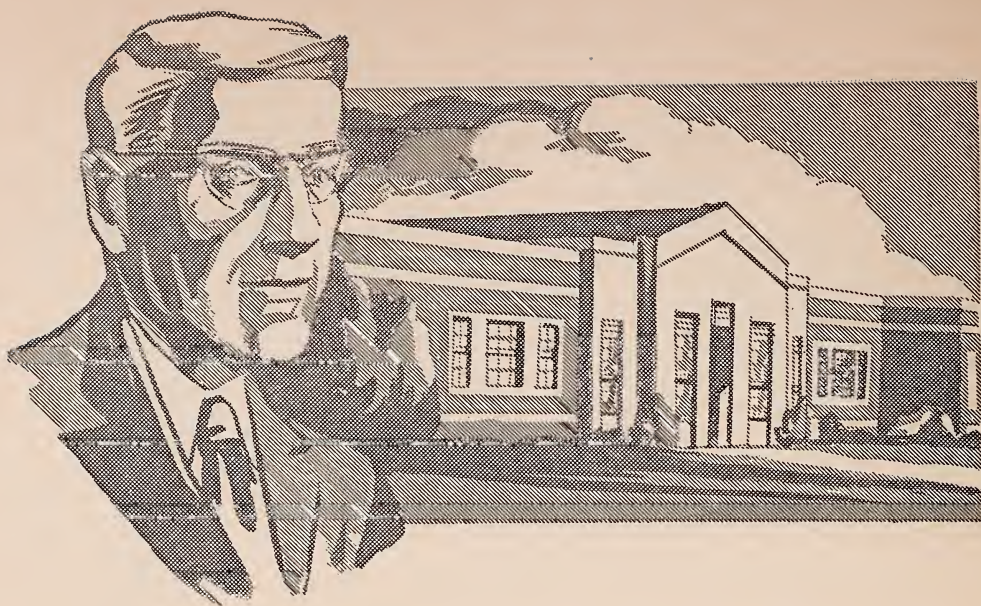
Contributing the needed spiritual note to YMW meetings and programs.

Supplying leadership and counsel.

Making satisfactory meeting places available.

Encouraging a well-informed and favorable attitude among adult community leaders.

Assisting in the development of community planning and coordinating counsels.



Work Out a Cooperative Arrangement With School Officials

In many communities there is a persistent drive to make over "the little red schoolhouse" of yesterday. Not only is the physical building being improved, but its functions, too, are changing.

Formerly the school was open only for classroom teaching activities or school-board meetings. Now it is fast becoming the social center of the community. Seats are no longer fastened to the floor. There is growing recognition that the school was built by all the people of the community and should be available for their use after formal school hours.

This trend offers an opportunity for you to work out a cooperative arrangement with school officials. Effective programs for young men and women often need a "home base" or a permanent meeting place. Using school facilities frequently is

a good solution. It helps your YMW program. The YMW program also helps the school system become the social as well as educational center of the community.

Here are some suggested ideas for you to use in talking with a schoolman about your joint opportunity for cooperation:

Providing meeting places for YMW activities.

Cooperation in joint community and county planning activities.

Providing trained instructors' help with specialized problems such as those relating to vocational counsel, music and drama, and industrial and commercial subjects.

Making recreational facilities available.

Permitting use of library and reference materials.



Why Farm-Organization Leaders Should Be Interested

In order to develop and continue a prosperous and abundant life for rural people, continuing education is essential. Leaders are needed for all phases of community life.

In your approach to farm-organization leaders, explain that the Extension Service is in a strategic position to help farm organizations and others develop broad programs. The experiences that young people gain from these activities will be not only helpful to them, but of continuing benefit to the community. Leaders of tomorrow are forming their attitudes and developing their talents today. It is highly important that their experiences should fit them for effective service to all rural people.

Here are some ways in which farm leaders can help this program for young men and women:

Help young people to develop into balanced and broadly in-

formed leaders, fitted for all types of leadership experiences in their communities.

Influence county extension planning committees to design special programs for young adults.

Make these young people feel welcome at farm-organization meetings. Give them positions of leadership and responsibility if they deserve them.

Call on extension agents to help with educational phases of the farm-organization older-youth program if there is such a program.

Be sure to point out to farm leaders that Extension is publicly supported and therefore extension agents must work with all rural organizations, rather than with but one or two.



Why Civic and Commercial Groups Should Support YMW Programs

The prosperity and progress of a community depend to a large extent upon the efficiency of its individual citizens. If they are well informed and use the best possible methods, the entire trade area is more likely to prosper.

Most civic and commercial groups within a city or town recognize that the welfare of agriculture is no longer an individual concern. What happens to farm income is reflected soon afterwards in retail and wholesale business.

Because of this definite interdependence, urban groups recognize the need for county extension services. They welcome extension agents at their meetings. They are anxious to hear about programs that benefit farm people. Their interest in 4-H Club work has been of great importance in building up

its public recognition and the prestige attached to it.

In the development of extension programs for young men and women, you have another opportunity to foster good rural-urban relationships. Point out to our urban friends that of all the boys and girls born on farms, half must leave for occupations elsewhere. This migration usually takes place soon after young people leave high school. A majority of the young men and women of 18 to 30 years of age who are now living in rural areas will remain there. It is doubly important that these young people be provided with effective educational programs.

When you are talking or planning with civic leaders about joint opportunities to be found in programs for young men and women, here are a few suggested ideas:

1. Exchange of a courtesy membership between civic or commercial groups and YMW groups.
2. Exchange of meeting programs and speakers. Each organization might put on one program a year for the other.
3. Joint development of community festivals or trade days.
4. Provision for a satisfactory YMW meeting place made by the urban group.
5. Financial sponsorship of YMW community-service projects by civic or commercial clubs.
6. Extending invitations, on behalf of YMW groups, to urban groups to attend field-demonstration trials or other method-and-result demonstrations.
7. Arranging for vocational tours for YMW groups to observe urban business, labor, and professional activities.



How To Get Started in Farming was the subject of this institute-type meeting for Maryland young farmers. Here the farm-management specialist is answering individual questions after the meeting. He is basing his advice on the results of research.

How the YMW Plan Was Developed

A representative national committee of agricultural educators and experts has carefully reviewed the programs, policies, goals, and methods of the cooperative Extension Service. As part of its deliberation, it studied how Extension was meeting the needs of young men and women. The report that followed is now considered a fundamental policy document.³ The following paragraphs, adapted from the report, show the high degree of importance the committee attached to this work:

A very significant development of recent years is the organized extension program for older youth or young adults. It is directed to young men and women whose interests and needs have matured beyond the types of programs usually associated with 4-H Club work, but who have not yet been effectively absorbed into adult extension work. This is a strategically important group in rural society deserving the same proportionate time and effort on the part of Extension as 4-H Club members and adults. The forward-looking programs for this age group now being conducted in a few States need to be developed further and similar programs organized in other States.

More intensive work needs to be done. Better ways of organizing the work need to be found. More attractive program activities are needed. This group needs more opportunity for self-expression of its energetic talents.

To further develop extension policies and programs for young men and women, a National Extension Young Adult Planning Conference was held at Jackson's Mill, W. Va., February 21 to 24, 1949. It was attended by 82 extension directors, supervisors, specialists, and county extension agents from 31 States and the Federal office.

The report⁴ and recommendations of this national conference have since been officially approved by the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. Most of the suggestions in this publication are based on recommendations in the national conference report.

³ U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ASSOCIATION OF LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT ON EXTENSION PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND GOALS. 72 pp. U. S. Dept. Agr., Washington, D. C. August 1948.

⁴ REPORT OF NATIONAL EXTENSION YOUNG ADULT PLANNING CONFERENCE. 74 pp. Jackson's Mill, Weston, W. Va. [Processed.] This report is available for reading from State extension directors and from land-grant college libraries.

Seven Guiding Principles for Extension Workers

1. Aim the YMW program primarily toward rural young men and women from 18 to 30 years of age.
2. Build programs upon the needs and interests of the young people in your county. These vary greatly and change from time to time.
3. Assign definite responsibilities to each national, State, and county extension worker. All have important contributions for work with young men and women.
4. Include young people and representatives of interested agencies and organizations in both planning and action phases.
5. Develop several different approaches:
 - Adjust your 4-H, agricultural, and home demonstration programs to include appeals for this age group.
 - Offer help to other agencies and organizations working with young people.
 - Organize extension groups and activities for young men and women.
 - Work with young people in informal groups.
 - Give indirect help through press, radio, letters, publications, and other information means.
 - Help individuals through direct contacts.
6. Move into new and underdeveloped fields of education. Provide specialist help and give training to leaders in vocational guidance, counseling, social development, health, recreation, economic and social problems.
7. County programs of YMW work should be an integral part of the county extension program. The YMW planning committee should be a part of the over-all county extension planning committee.

What the Program Aims To Do

Extension is trying to help young people to—

Acquire knowledge and skills in farming and homemaking.

Develop spiritually.

Understand our democracy and the responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship.

Obtain vocational guidance.

Plan worth-while social and recreational programs.

Develop leadership and provide continuing opportunities for young people to prepare themselves for full adult responsibilities.

Organize community-service programs.

Study and discuss broad economic and social questions.

Make desirable social adjustments and prepare for wholesome family living.

Appreciate cultural values and the advantages of rural living.

Analyze community problems of conserving human and natural resources.

Understand the problems of both rural and urban people.

6/28 1930
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
CURRENT STATE RECORDS
1